

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

upon them, and the Hungarians were detested. The marriage was an unhappy one. Robert of Naples died in 1343. On September 18, 1345, Andrew was strangled as he left the Queen's chamber at Aversa; it seems probable that Giovanna was at least privy to the deed, and others of the royal family were implicated.

Such, at least, was the view of the avenger—the dead man's brother, Louis of Hungary—by strict descent the head of the house of Anjou. A young king, strong and terrible, he assembled a Hungarian army, and, in 1347, invaded Italy. Giovanna, who had married her cousin, Luigi of Taranto, fled to Provence (of which she was Countess), where she convinced the Pope of her innocence, and sold Avignon to him for a nominal sum. With his black standard of vengeance floating before him, the King of Hungary entered the kingdom of Naples. At Aversa, he executed his cousin, Charles of Durazzo, on the spot of Andrew's murder, as an accomplice in the crime ; the rest of the royal family were sent prisoners into Hungary, with the little child, Carobert, Giovanna's son (ostensibly by her late husband), who died almost immediately. Naples surrendered in terror. But, in the next year, Giovanna and Luigi returned; and a long war was brought to an end by the Pope's intervention in April, 1352, leaving the kingdom to Giovanna and her husband, and to Louis what he professed alone to desire—the satisfaction of having avenged his brother's death.

Giovanna's second husband died in 1362, and, in 1366, she married a third, James of Aragon, son of the King of Majorca. The house of Anjou had now three chief representatives : Giovanna at Naples, still of surpassing beauty, luxurious and splendid, not devoid of enlightenment, presiding over the gayest and most gorgeous court of Italy ; King Louis of Hungary, who was making his kingdom the most potent state in Europe, conquering Moldavia in 1352 and Bulgaria in 1365 ; and the younger Charles of Durazzo ("Carlo della Pace"), nephew of the Duke whom Louis had slain, and husband of Giovanna's niece, Mar-gherita, in the service of his Hungarian cousin, and himself